Bonn Vexed at GIs' Withdrawal

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BONN, April 12—The West German government is extremely annoyed at not having been informed in advance of Washington's decision to pull out 15,000 military specialists from Europe to fill the gaps caused by the Vietnam war.

Official sources said that Bonn was not only piqued at being bypassed but also was taken aback by the size and extent of the withdrawal.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara revealed last week that the United States planned a temporary withdrawal of 15,000 highly trained specialists from Europe by June 30 because of the demands of the fighting in Vietnam. It is believed here that most of them will come from the 7th Army, stationed in West Germany.

Instructions to Envoy

Although officials in Bonn appeared to want to play down, in public, the extent of their injured feelings, the government of Chancellor Erhard is understood to have instructed its Ambassador to Washington, Heinrich Knappstein, to make representations to the State Department and to seek fuller information about the intended withdrawal.

The West German Foreign Office and Defense Department are particularly sensitive at this moment about anything affecting the military posture of the Allies stationed here in the light of the forthcoming talks with France about her intention of withdrawing from the NATO command.

Bonn is awaiting the arrival Thursday of President Johnson's newly appointed special envoy for NATO affairs, John J. McCloy, who will be consulting with the Germans and the British here regarding Western reactions to the French defection. There is no doubt that he will be asked about the surprise announcement of the withdrawal of the American specialists.

Learned in Press

There is strong feeling here that this announcement, which the Bonn officials learned about first through the press, might give ammunition to some in the Erhard Cabinet who are tempted to favor acceding to President de Gaulle's demands for strictly bilateral negotiations on the maintaining of the French forces in Germany rather than holding a solid NATO front against him.

McCloy's visit is intended to bolster the NATO stance in the face of de Gaulle's disruptive actions.

There was no indication that the Bonn government would permit its annoyance over the McNamara announcement of troop withdrawals to alter its determination to coordinate with the United States, Britain and the rest of NATO on all matters affecting the alliance.